

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9776

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5826

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR 1, APR. 6, 1973

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL DANANG BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

DANANG 342

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 68, APRIL 6, 1973

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACTIVITY REMAINED CENTERED IN THE THIRD REGIMENT AREA OF THE FIRST DIVISION AO NORTHWEST AND WEST OF HUE. OF 25 INCIDENTS REPORTED THROUGHOUT THE REGION (21 ABFS, 1 GROUND ATTACK, 3 MISCELLANEOUS), 16 WERE IN THE FIRST DIVISION AREA (15 ABFS, 1 GROUND ATTACK). REGION WIDE CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 7 KIA, 32 WIA, 3 MIA; ENEMY 19 KIA. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 1,595 ROUNDS 1,168 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 427 SOUTH.

2. COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

A. ARVN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT THERE ARE NOW 4 SAM MISSILE SITES, 6 MISSILES, AND 4 RADAR SITES VISIBLE IN THE KHE SANH AREA.

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B. COMMUNIST GUERRILLA UNITS KEPT UP THEIR SPORADIC HARASSMENT OF ARVN AND TERRITORIAL FORCES IN SONH TINH, MO DUC AND DUC PHO DISTRICTS OF QUANG NGAI. IN LARGE PART, HOWEVER, THESE ATTACKS APPEAR TO BE IN RESPONSE TO GVN- INITIATED SEARCH OPERATIONS IN THE LOWLANDS. ENEMY MAIN FORCE AND LOCAL FORCE UNITS CONTINUE TO AVOID CONTACT AS THEY REGROUP AND RETRAIN FOLLOWING THEIR OFFENSIVE OF LATE JANUARY.

3. GVN MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

ARVN RANGERS HAVE DISCOVERED A CACHE OF TNT, BATTERIES AND WIRE WEST OF THE LANG CO RAILROAD BRIDGE IN SOUTHERN THUA THIEN PROVINCE. (CONGEN COMMENT: RAIL SERVICE BETWEEN HUE AND DANANG WAS REOPENED FOR PUBLIC TRAVEL ON APRIL 1. END COMMENT.)

4. ICCS:

A. ON APRIL 5, ICCS REGION I TEAM MADE A RECONNAISSANCE VISIT TO GIO LINH ACCESS POINT SITE BY ROAD FROM NORTH SIDE OF THACH HAN RIVER. ASIDE FROM EFFORTS TO COORDINATE THIS TRIP, ICCS REGION I ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST WEEK HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO MOVING THE HEADQUARTERS FROM THE HUONG GIANG HOTEL TO THE FORMER MACV COMPOUND.

B. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF IN HUE, ICCS REGION I POLISH INTERPRETER MARIUSZ DASTYCH COMMENTED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET THE PRG TO TAKE REASONABLE POSITIONS. THE PRG OFTEN DOES " STUPID THINGS", HE SAID, WHICH MAKE IT EMBARRASSING FOR THE HUNGARIANS AND POLES TO SUPPORT THEM. DASTYCH GAVE AS AN EXAMPLE THE FAILURE TO REMOVE DRV FLAGS FROM THE VINH HOA PHUONG AREA BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE ICCS/ JMC INVESTIGATING TEAM. DASTYCH COMMENTED: " EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THERE ARE NVA FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM BUT THEY SHOULD AT LEAST, FOR THE SAKE OF AN INVESTIGATION REQUESTED BY THE PRG, PRESERVE THE FICTION THAT THE AREA BELOW THE CUA VIET RIVER IS PRG AND NOT DRV- CONTROLLED." IN DEFENSE OF THE PRG, DASTYCH STATED THAT IN SOME CASES DIFFICULTIES ARISE IN REGARDS INVESTIGATIONS AND DEPLOYMENT WHICH THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS DISMISS AS OBSTRUCTIVE TACTICS BUT ARE, IN FACT, THE GENUINE RESULT OF INADEQUATE PRG RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. (POLOFF COMMENT: INTERPRETER DASTYCH IS A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO APPEARS TO BE IN CHARGE OF THE REGION I POLDEL. END COMMENT.)

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C. QUANG TIN PROVINCE CHIEF CONDUCTED THE SECOND OF HIS PRO-

VINCE TOURS FOR THE LOCAL ICCS REGION II TEAM ON APRIL 5. THREE
INDONESIANS AND TWO CANADIANS TRAVELLED OVER LARGE PORTIONS
OF THANG BINH DISTRICT BY JEEP, HONDA, AND BOAT IN THE COMPANY OF
THE PROVINCE CHIEF. TOUR INCLUDED ASSEMBLED SCHOOL CHILDREN,
ELDERS WAVING GVNFLAGS, AND A GENERAL SITUATION BRIEFING AT
DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS DURING WHICH QUESTIONS BY ICCS VISITORS
WERE FREELY A
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